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NUMBER 40

NEW YORK GIRL IS VICTIM OF BRUTAL CRIME

BUSINESS COLLEGE GRADUATE, LURED BY PROMISE OF EMPLOYMENT, BURNED TO DEATH; MAN IS HELD.

WOMAN IS HELD AS A WITNESS

ALBERT WOLTER, ARRESTED AS SUSPECT, MAINTAINS INNOCENCE, BUT EVIDENCE POINTS TO HIS GUILT.

New York, March 28.—Spurred on by the discovery that Ruth Wheeler, the girl stenographer who was the victim of the sensational murder uncovered Saturday evening, was by every evidence smothered and stifled, the Otumwa delegates will go by boat and by the morning Rock Island passenger train, which leaves here at 9 o'clock, and the representatives from other cities and towns on the river will advance to the convention cities by divers routes. Every indication now makes it appear that the Farmington gathering will be even greater than the one held in Ottumwa.

Secretary W. T. Archer has received many favorable replies from the association's vice presidents and from other river enthusiasts, and the expected presence of United States Assistant Engineer Albert O. Rowse, who is now surveying the river, has been another item which attracts considerable attention. Mr. Rowse has given the association the promise to be present and see the active interest taken in the proposed improvement of the stream by the members of the association, and he will endeavor to be present. A. C. Miller of Des Moines, one of the foremost workers for navigation on the Des Moines, will also endeavor to be present.

The Ottumwa delegation will leave on the morning Rock Island and return on the Rock Island passenger which arrives here at 6:40 p. m. Captain Jesse B. Hammond and Captain E. J. Caton, with their helpers, left this morning in their launch, "RUBY C" for a trip down the river. They will be present at the Farmington meeting, and then proceed to the Mississippi river, on which they will hunt ducks for ten days.

Katie Muehler, Wolter's companion, broke down today and gave the police some startling additions to her testimony. She said at midnight on the night Ruth Wheeler disappeared, she was awakened by a crash in the front room and on calling to Wolter she was told that part of the fireplace had fallen down. "The Otumwa woman said, according to the police, she was awakened again about 2 o'clock by another sound as of something falling, and that Wolter was on his knees before the fireplace shoveling something black into the grate. He said the fireplace had fallen down again and when she offered to help him he ordered her back to bed under threat to kill her."

New York, March 28.—The body of Ruth Wheeler, a 15-year-old girl graduate of a business college, who was lured from her widowed mother Thursday last by the decoy offer of employment, was found Saturday evening huddled in a gunny sack, on a fire escape outside the apartment of Albert Wolter, the man charged with her abduction. She had been strangled with the shirt end of a three-eighths inch rope, hacked with a knife, burned beyond recognition and thrust carelessly out of doors like so much rubbish.

Body Thrust Up Chimney. The identification was only possible by the shreds of clothing and fragments of jewelry, but there was evidence of how the murder was done. Around her neck were the charred fibers of the Manila burnt into her flesh. The apartment reeked with the odor of kerosene. There were oil stains in the front of the newly painted fireboard that had an open grate. Fully dressed, the girl's clothing and hair had been saturated with kerosene, the fireboard had been removed and the body thrust up the chimney standing.

When a match was touched to her she burned like a torch. The detectives who searched Wolter's rooms said they believe he is a procurer. Among the effects found were obscene photographs and a note book filled with addresses of girls, with their ages, wages, weight and details of appearance noted. Among the names, the detectives say, was that of Ruth Wheeler.

Wolter's Girl is Arrested. Katie Muehler, whose name was given to the police yesterday as Miller, was arrested shortly before noon and gave some valuable corroborative evidence against Wolter.

Katie Muehler was arrested at the house in East One Hundred and Fifth street, in which she and Wolter had taken rooms after their flight from the house of murder in East Seventy-fifth street. She was taken to a police station, where she told what is believed to be most of what she may have to tell. She was sure that Wolter, since she had lived with him, had had nothing to do with other girls. He always was kind "and wouldn't do anything to any girl."

That letter "W." said the girl, indicating an initial worked on the shirt, "was embroidered by Albert's mother." She also identified the gunnysack in which the body had been placed as having been used by her and Wolter to hold kindling wood.

Taft Goes to New York. Washington, D. C., March 28.—President Taft left for New York at 12:30 p. m., today.

FARMINGTON WILL AROUND WITH BOOSTERS

DES MOINES RIVER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING IN DOWN STATE CITY WILL ATTRACT MANY.

Des Moines river boosters, with plenty of enthusiasm and boost spirit for the navigation of the stream from Keokuk to Des Moines will go to Farmington in great numbers tomorrow to be present at the second meeting of the Des Moines River Improvement association. Ottumwa delegates will go by boat and by the morning Rock Island passenger train, which leaves here at 9 o'clock, and the representatives from other cities and towns on the river will advance to the convention cities by divers routes. Every indication now makes it appear that the Farmington gathering will be even greater than the one held in Ottumwa.

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ELECTIONS IN IOWA

Commission Plan Cities Are Casting Ballots; First Trial for Three Cities.

Des Moines, March 28.—Scores of cities and towns in Iowa are holding municipal elections today. Sioux City, Burlington and Keokuk are holding their first election under the commission plan. Des Moines and Cedar Rapids are holding their second election under the new system.

Des Moines, March 28.—(Special.)—Under a summer's sky, the second election day under the Des Moines plan of city government opened today with a heavy vote in every precinct. All of the old commissioners are up for re-election and likely to win, with the possible exception of John L. Hamer, superintendent of public safety.

The Election at Cedar Rapids. Cedar Rapids, March 28.—(Special.)—A large vote is being cast in the city election today. A hot fight is over the council and only one candidate is sure of election, he being City Engineer Smith. Mayor Miles will be elected by a big majority.

The Waterloo Election. Waterloo, March 28.—(Special.)—A big vote is being polled at the city election today. Prospects early in the day favor the election of John R. Reuter for mayor.

NEGRO PORTER KILLED

Jute Beecham of Davenport Met Horrible Death at Columbus Junction Last Night.

Columbus Junction, March 28.—(Special.)—Jute Beecham, aged 30, a negro employed at the St. James hotel at Davenport, was killed under the wheels of the Rock Island west of here last night. Part of his body was scattered along the track for half a mile. One foot was found at Cotter, five miles away. Beecham was en route from Davenport to Keokuk and was to have phoned cars here. It is supposed that he found he had been carried by and jumped from the train and was killed.

CHIEF LEIGHTON OUT

Head of Waterloo Police Department Resigns at Request of Mayor Ralph Doty.

Waterloo, March 28.—(Special.)—The cause of his activity in the city election, Chief of Police E. A. Leighton, a former guard of the Anamosa prison, was asked to resign by Mayor Ralph Doty today. Doty is seeking re-election and he saw the chief carrying banners of T. J. Martin for mayor from a rig assigned to bring voters to the poll. E. A. Huston, former deputy sheriff of Des Moines county, and city detective for two years, was named by Mayor Doty as acting chief.

EIGHT KILLED IN ACCIDENT ON CHARLESTON

EXPLOSION OF THREE INCH GUN DURING TARGET PRACTICE COSTS LIVES OF SAILORS; BURY MEN AT CAVITE.

Manila, March 28.—The report that a fatal accident had occurred on the United States cruiser Charleston was confirmed today. Eight men were killed and several others were slightly injured.

During a practice at sea off Olongapo the breech lock of a three inch gun blew off and in its flight struck the deck cut through a steel stanchion and mowed down the men in its path. Seven were instantly killed, while the eighth died as the Charleston was hurrying to Cavite. The dead are:

PHILIP M'KEE, master at arms. WALTER HEATER. LEO REMMELLE. HARRY GRADEN. RALPH BARKMAN. MAXIE BARDER, the latter five being seamen.

EDWARD MOLI, a private marine. The cause of the explosion is not known. An investigation has been ordered. The bodies of the victims will be buried at Cavite.

The Charleston, which was launched in 1904, succeeded to the name of the cruiser Charleston, which was a part of Dewey's squadron in the battle of Manila bay and later, on Nov. 2, 1899, was wrecked on an uncharted reef off the coast of Luzon, in the Philippines.

The Charleston is one of the finest vessels of its class in the world. It is an improvement on the cruiser Olympia, Admiral Dewey's flagship in the battle of Manila, and embodies features which are new to cruisers of its class.

The Charleston is the flagship of Rear Admiral John Hubbard, commander in chief of the Asiatic fleet. Commander John H. Gibbons is in charge of the boat.

Millers Win Flour Case. Washington, D. C., March 28.—The interstate commerce commission today ordered the lake and rail rates on flour from Minneapolis, Minn., to New York City and the Atlantic seaboard to be reduced from 23 cents a hundred pounds to 21 1/2 cents, for two years beginning May 10. This decides the famous case of the northwestern millers against twenty-nine rail and lake lines in favor of the millers.

SENT TO HONDURAS

Dr. William Thompson, Government Veterinary, Formerly of Waterloo Gets Promotion.

Waterloo, March 28.—(Special.)—Dr. William Thompson, government veterinary, who inaugurated the milk inspection in the states of Iowa and Nebraska, with headquarters in Omaha, has been ordered by the government to take charge of animals at Honduras.

The Election at Burlington. Burlington, March 28.—(Special.)—Election day under the commission plan in Burlington is quiet. The weather is ideal and the candidates are working hard. Indications are that a big vote will be polled. Odds are given that W. C. Cross, candidate for mayor, will defeat Dr. Caster for that place on the ticket.

Evangelical Conference Closes. Cedar Rapids, March 28.—(Special.)—The Des Moines conference of the United Evangelical church closed its convention today. The next meeting place will be in Marshalltown in 1911. J. G. Walz is assigned to the Waterloo church and Mr. Wadeng to the Des Moines church.

Starts Out on Trip. Des Moines, March 28.—(Special.)—The Holden seed corn special, which the Rock Island will run on its Iowa lines between Des Moines and Council Bluffs, left Des Moines this morning at 7 o'clock. The first stop was at Van Meter, where a lecture was delivered on the necessity of selecting good seed corn.

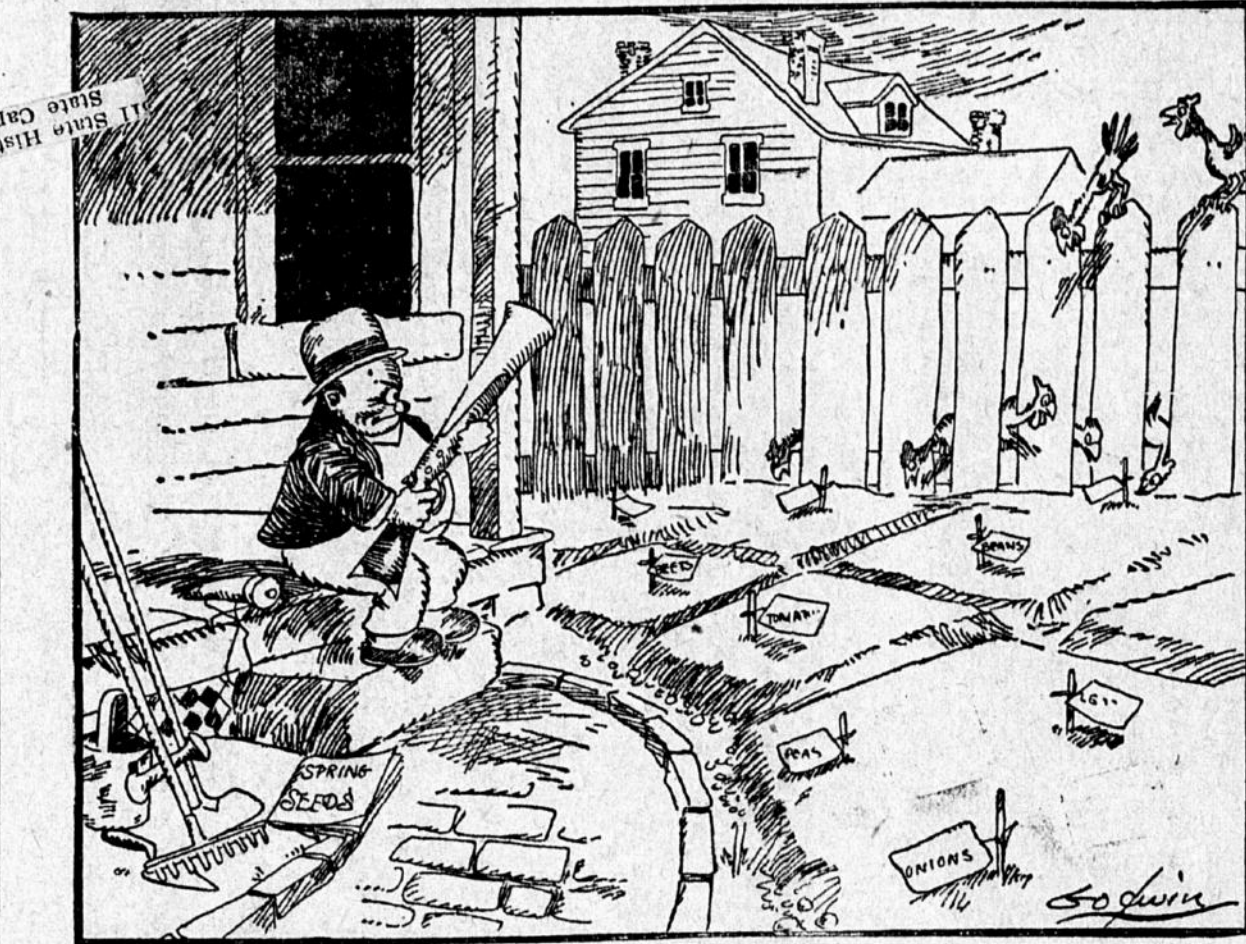
Junk Thieves Busy. Cedar Rapids, March 28.—(Special.)—Junk thieves ripped thirty-four Illinois freight cars of their brake shoes. They will probably be sold in junk shops.

Egg Rolling at White House. Washington, D. C., March 28.—The Easter Monday egg rolling on the lawns of the White house today presented the usual pretty picture of youthful joyousness.

Two Pioneers Die. Cedar Rapids, March 28.—(Special.)—John Paul, aged 92, and Emerson Brown, 82, prominent Jones county pioneers, died at Onslow yesterday.

Prof. Nothing Dead. Clinton, March 28.—(Special.)—Prof. Nothing, formerly of Denver, Iowa, died at Wardburg.

CONSERVATION POLICY OF THE HOUR



THREE SLAIN IN CONCORDIA

FATHER AND TWO CHILDREN MURDERED WHILE RIDING IN MOTOR BOAT.

Concordia, Kas., March 28.—Alexander Lindahl, a wealthy farmer, his daughter aged 10, and his son aged 3, were mysteriously murdered yesterday while riding in a motor boat on the Republican river near here. The bodies were found today. The children were in the boat and the father was in the water. They had been shot and clubbed. There is no clue.

Lindahl and the children were last seen at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. When they did not return late at night a search was made and early today the bodies were found in a boat five miles down the river. The battered bodies of the children were found in the boat and a few feet away the body of the father was discovered. He evidently had gone to fight an assailant in an effort to save the children's lives. The bodies were clubbed repeatedly after the victims had been shot several times. There is intense excitement here and posses are searching for the murderer.

This afternoon John Nordmark was arrested on suspicion of having killed Lindahl and the children. It is said he quarreled with Lindahl last week.

A HOT SUMMER AHEAD

Darby, Penn., Prognosticator With a Flawless Record, Makes His Prediction.

Darby, Pa., March 28.—After having successfully predicted a long, cold winter, with several blizzards which arrived within a few days of schedule time, John T. Roberts, a Darby carpenter, who has been forecasting the weather for forty-two years with such certainty that all Darby swears by him, is the first to come forward and say a long hot summer is ahead of us.

"June will be warm, as a month," said Roberts, "and the early part of July will be slightly cool, but after the first week it will begin to get warm and will continue all month. August will come in red hot and will stay that way. Crops will be affected by heat, and many persons will be overcome. There will be severe thunderstorms all summer."

Roberts forecasts the weather by taking the direction of the wind for the three days of the equinox, taking the first day, March 20, as an indication for the weather of July, and the third day, March 22, for the month of August.

A NEW PARTY?

President Gompers Says Something Will Be Done When Bryan Talks at St. Louis.

St. Louis, March 28.—William J. Bryan will be one of the speakers at the National Convention of Farmers to be held here May 27, according to an announcement of the officials. A new political party may be launched during the convention according to President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

FAMILY IS POISONED

W. R. Spurtz Wife and Children of Bone Have Narrow Escape While Eating Lunch.

Boone, March 28.—(Special.)—W. R. Spurtz, a well known clothing merchant, his entire family, and a visitor were poisoned at noon today at lunch. Their conditions are critical and doctors were summoned.

FEAR LYNCHING IN SAYLER CASE

OFFICIALS HEAR REPORTS THAT VIOLENCE WILL FOLLOW AN ACQUITTAL.

Watska, Ill., March 28.—Persistent rumors of the organization of a band of determined residents of Iroquois county to take affairs into their own hands by force in the event of the acquittal of Dr. W. R. Miller, Mrs. Lucy Saylor and John Grunden of the charge of murdering John Byron Saylor have caused the sheriff to begin an investigation. The stories of a plan to lynch the defendants in the trial now in progress reached the ears of the state's attorney a few days ago, but they were not given serious consideration until now.

Sheriff George Helges sent one of his deputies, Daniel Greaves, on a mysterious mission into the territory about Watska Sunday night. He refused to divulge the reason for this action, but declared he would take steps to insure the adequate protection of his prisoners even to the extent of swearing in fifty armed deputies if necessary. Attorneys in the case talked of an appeal to Gov. Deneen in case of possible violence.

A new deputy, George Lacey, has been sworn in, to assist in taking care of the prisoners. He is a strong man physically, and his appointment has caused comment.

Sheriff Will Protect Charges. "I will protect the prisoners in my charge at all times while the case is in progress," said Sheriff Helges. "I do so when they were first taken into custody, when there seemed greater possibility of a mob than there is now or at the close of the hearing. I will have sufficient force to do my duty."

William O. Saylor, a brother of the slain banker, is one of the men responsible for the persistence of the rumor of violence in the event of an acquittal. He asserts the prisoners will not escape punishment.

"Do you mean that you would lead a mob that would take the law in its own hands?" he was asked. "That would not be necessary," was his reply. "That has already been arranged."

Similar stories of a plot "to see that the defendants never escape" have been told in the county seat by other witnesses in the case. The persistence of these stories, which thus far have been regarded too preposterous for consideration, has caused a number of law abiding citizens to offer their services to the sheriff in case of need.

The attorneys for the defense had not been impressed with these seemingly vague rumors, but on hearing that they came from important witnesses decided to take steps for the protection of their clients.

DES MOINES LOSES AGAIN

Interstate Commerce Commission in Decision Says City is Not Discriminated Against.

Washington Bureau of The Ottumwa Courier. Washington, D. C., March 28.—(Special.)—The city of Des Moines has failed in its effort to show that it was being unduly discriminated against by the railroads in favor of Kansas City, St. Joseph and other places. A decision to that effect was made public today by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Hogs at Chicago \$11.20. Chicago, March 28.—The best grade of hogs, which a fortnight ago sold at the highest price since the Civil war, scored a further advance of fifteen cents a hundred today, selling at \$11.20.

IOWA MAN WAS FIRE VICTIM

B. SINCLAIR OF MT. PLEASANT LOST LIFE IN FISH FURNITURE FATALITY.

Mt. Pleasant, March 28.—Bamford Sinclair, formerly of this city, was burned to death in the fire which destroyed the L. Fish furniture store in Chicago. He was the oldest son of Mrs. Sinclair of this city, and a brother of Will Sinclair.

Bamford T. Sinclair was the eldest son of the Rev. J. A. and Mrs. Sinclair. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, March 20, 1882, and was at the time of his death 28 years and 5 days old. His early education was obtained in the schools of What Cheer, and he graduated with honors from the high school there in 1898. Following his leaving school he enlisted in 1899 in the regular army, Seventh artillery, and served three years in the Spanish-American war, much of the time being spent in Cuba. After his term of service had expired, he left the army and went to Chicago, where he engaged in business. He held several positions of trust, among which was that of clerk in the Chicago postoffice. For about a year past he has been employed as assistant advertising manager of the Fish Furniture company.

He leaves of the immediate family, his mother, Mrs. J. A. Sinclair, of this city and the following sisters and brothers: Mrs. Nellie Evans of Chicago, Misses Margarita, Lydia and Abbie of Mt. Pleasant; William of this city, and Erwin, who left last week for the northwest.

LANDMARK DESTROYED

Fire at North McGregor Sunday Afternoon Destroys the Windgen Saw Mill.

North McGregor, March 28.—Fire Sunday afternoon entirely consumed Windgen saw mill, an old landmark of North McGregor. It is supposed the blaze started from a spark from an engine. In spite of the efforts of the fire department, the flames spread. The wood being so dry, the structure was soon demolished. The loss is \$25,000 with no insurance.

CRESTON WOMAN SUICIDE

Mrs. Lily Johnson Worrying Over a Small Furniture Bill Drinks Strychnine.

Creston, March 28.—(Special.)—Because she owed \$15 as an installment on furniture, which she could not meet, Mrs. Lily Johnson, a boarding house keeper, committed suicide by swallowing a dose of strychnine. She had been twice married and twice divorced from James Johnson, Johnson was said to be trying to induce her to marry him for the third time. They came here from Clinton a year ago.

DANCE ENDS IN DEATH

Fire at Easter Ball in Hungary Cause of Panic—Hundreds Trampled to Death.

Matessalka, Hungary, March 28.—Two hundred and fifty people were killed and many others injured in the fire which broke out last night in a hotel where a ball was being held. A woman's dress accidentally caught fire, the flames communicating to the gowns of other women. In the panic many were trampled to death before the hall was cleared and many injured in the rush for the exits were buried in the ruins.

OHIO WOMAN TO CLAIM BODY OF H. D. M'DONALD

CHICAGO MAN WHO KILLED FAIRFIELD BRIDE AND THEN SUICIDED, IS CLAIMED BY CINCINNATI, OHIO, WOMAN.

DOUBLE FUNERAL HELD YESTERDAY

AFTER BODIES ARE BURIED SIDE BY SIDE CORONER HEARS FROM WOMAN WHO IS COMING FOR THE BODY.

Fairfield, March 28.—(Special.)—An embarrassing situation arose twenty-four hours after the bodies of Harry D. McDonald and his murdered bride were lowered into the grave when Coroner Gaumer received a telegram from Mrs. H. D. Ward of Cincinnati, Ohio, who claims to have been McDonald's wife, in which she says she is coming Wednesday to take charge of the body. J. E. McDaniels, father of Mrs. McDonald, who was given charge of the body and had charge of the burial, is out of the city and it is not known what steps he will take to contest the claims of the Ohio woman.

Coroner J. S. Gaumer this morning received a letter from Mrs. Ward in which she stated that she believed McDonald was the same man who married her under the name of Harry Ward and who deserted her fifteen months ago. She described her husband, mentioning the crossed swords tattooed on his arm and the big scar on his forehead. Her description tallied exactly with that of the man now lying in a Fairfield grave. A few hours later Mrs. Ward wired Coroner Gaumer that she was starting for Fairfield and would arrive Wednesday.

The Woman's Letter.

The letter received from Mrs. Ward said in part: "I have learned through the Cincinnati papers of the death of H. D. McDonald, whose right name is reported to be Harry Ward, the name of my husband. My husband left Cincinnati fifteen months ago and the last I heard from him was March 13 from Chicago. I am without funds and therefore incapable of making the trip to Fairfield to identify the body. You can appreciate the state I am in, with out funds and the sole support of our child."

"I will give you this description of my husband: He was 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighed 150 pounds. He had dark hair and was dark complexioned. He had two false upper teeth, a scar on his nose, two crossed swords tattooed on one arm, and a long scar on the forehead. Will you kindly send me a description of the body you have there and also keep the body until I can satisfy myself."

It was but a short time later that the telegram was received stating that the woman would arrive Wednesday to identify the body.

Description Fits Case.

The description given by Mrs. Ward fits McDonald in the most detail, according to Coroner Gaumer, with the exception of the reference to the two false teeth. Gaumer had two gold teeth, but inasmuch as she had not seen him for more than a year it is possible that he had had his teeth attended to.

Coroner Gaumer is awaiting the return of Mr. McDaniels, who is out of the city, in order to see what steps shall be taken as to removing the body from the grave when Mrs. Ward arrives.

Funeral Held Yesterday. Side by side in Evergreen cemetery the bodies of Harry Douglas McDonald and his young wife were buried Sunday afternoon. The funeral was private and was conducted by Rev. O. L. Tennant of the Methodist church. At Evergreen cemetery a large crowd was present, drawn through curiosity. The only ceremony here was a short prayer. Six of the dead girl's former chums bore her body, while friends of the family were McDonald's pall bearers.

McDonald, Soldier of Fortune. Chicago, March 28.—While friends of Harry Douglas McDonald, who murdered his bride of four weeks and then committed suicide at Fairfield, Ia., last week, admit that he is branded with the name of a bigamist, deserter, murderer and suicide, they will await complete confirmation of all reports before removing the laurel of the hero from his brow.

According to friends who knew McDonald well, his had been a life of adventure, that of the typical soldier of fortune, who had faced death in four wars, taking part in some of the world's most famous battles. In the course of his military career, he served five years in India as a member of the Gordon Highlanders. After coming to America he secured a commission as captain in the United States army.